

Sgroliwch I lawr am y Gymraeg

The Church in Wales

News Release: *February 10 2009*

New Assistant Bishop of Llandaff appointed

A former chaplain to two Archbishops of York will be the new Assistant Bishop of Llandaff.

The Revd Canon David Wilbourne, vicar of Helmsley in the Diocese of York has been appointed by the Archbishop of Wales and Bishop of Llandaff, Dr Barry Morgan. He will succeed the Rt Rev Dr David Yeoman, who retires next month.

Canon David is a prolific writer and broadcaster who served as chaplain to both the Rt Rev Dr John Habgood and the Rt Rev Dr David Hope as Archbishops of York.

Dr Barry Morgan said, "I feel deeply privileged that Canon David has accepted my invitation to be my fellow Bishop in the Diocese of Llandaff. He brings to the task, immense pastoral wisdom and experience over 28 years of ordained ministry. Having served as chaplain to two Archbishops he understands well the demands of Episcopal ministry."

Canon David, 53, said, "I am very excited at the thought of serving as Assistant Bishop of Llandaff – it is a job of which my dreams are made! I have always admired the Church in Wales because it effortlessly combines friendliness with holiness, its Gospel one that is unashamed of its own tenderness: that strikes me as Anglicanism at its very best. Chiefly I come empty-handed, keen to listen, to learn and to affirm life in all its fullness. Then let's see where God leads us from there."

Born in Derbyshire and schooled in Yorkshire, Canon David studied Natural Sciences and Theology at Jesus College and trained for ordination at Westcott House, Cambridge. He returned to Yorkshire as a priest, ministering first in urban Middlesbrough, then in a shadow-urban parish north of Pontefract. He then moved on to be the Archbishop of York's chaplain working with John Habgood for four years prior to his retirement and then continuing to work with his successor, David Hope. He was also Director of Ordinands, selecting women and men for the ordained ministry and taking them through training to their first post. In Sept 1997 he moved from Bishopthorpe to be Vicar of Helmsley, a moorland market town in North Yorkshire, which has now become a minster church serving eight other churches. Archbishop John Sentamu collated him as a non-residentiary canon of York Minster in 2008.

His publications include several novels, a diary of his travels with Archbishop John Habgood and one philosophical work, exploring the development of personality, originally a series of Lent lectures at York Minster. He wrote a regular diary column for *The Church Times* for the 12 years.

A son of a Yorkshire priest, Canon David is married to Rachel, a history and RE teacher. They have three daughters who are all students. His interests include cycling, hill walking, New Testament research and writing. He also enjoys the poetry of RS Thomas and D Gwenallt Jones

Canon David's last Sunday in Helmsley will be on Mothering Sunday, 22 March, and he will be consecrated on April 4 at Llandaff Cathedral and take up full duties as Assistant Bishop at the beginning of May.